



**Mayor Coleman's 2007 Proposed Saint Paul City Budget:
Putting Saint Paul Back on Track**

Regulatory Services Consolidation

Overview

Mayor Coleman's 2007 Proposed Budget establishes a new City Department of Regulatory Services through the Consolidation of four previous departments: License, Inspection and Environmental Protection (LIEP), the Citizen Service Office (CSO), the Department of Neighborhood Housing and Property Improvement (NHPI) and the Fire Prevention Division of the Fire and Emergency Services Department.

Why is The Mayor proposing this merger?

The housing and code enforcement staff in the City of Saint Paul is second to none. Despite numerous changes in leadership and organizational structure over the last decade, they have continued to develop innovative programs, such as Rental Registration and the "Tenant Remedies" property improvement programs and improved response to citizen complaints.

After taking office in January, Mayor Coleman appointed Bob Kessler as Director of LIEP and NHPI, and asked him to initiate a process to determine the long-term future of code enforcement for the City. Mayor Coleman also wanted to tap the expertise of city staff as a part of the process. The result was the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Housing and Property Code Enforcement. This committee includes 34 representatives from the affected city departments, members of the City Council and the Mayor's Office. Other key participants include code enforcement's stakeholders, such as the Community Stabilization Project, the Association of Responsible Landlords, the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, the Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce and members of the Business Review Council and the Truth in Sale of Housing Board. The result of this inclusive process is a consolidation of functions to streamline services for residents and businesses.

The consolidation will increase both accountability and efficiency in enforcement of the various city and state housing, building, fire safety and related regulations. It will save \$300,000 in the first year and, most importantly, it will improve the City's response to complaints and requests for service.

How will it work?

This consolidation means a real transformation in our code enforcement efforts. For example, the City receives a number of complaints about people running auto repair businesses out of their homes. Typically, these complaints violate several different City codes and could involve an inspection by four different inspectors from four different units of City government. Under the new organization, one person would visit the location and issue one set of orders for all the violations, saving time and resources while improving communication for the home owner, the complainant and City staff.
